

SUMMER READING
SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OAK AND SHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOLS

June 2009

Dear Families,

During the summer months, it is important that children read daily in order to maintain their literacy skills. Studies have shown that students who read during the summer can actually improve their reading. Students should be encouraged to read books that match their level of comprehension. All books are listed by reading level (level 3 = challenging, level 2 = average, level 1 = easy). We also listed a many of books of different genres in order to meet children's preferences. The goal of the summer reading program is *to foster a love of reading*.

There are no required novels for grades 5-8. Students may select books from the entire list. Additionally, the lists are no longer grade specific. All students at Sherwood will select books from one list and all students from Oak will select books from another list. We hope this will expand the choices and provide many genres from which students can select a book.

We will not be sending home a paper copy of the summer reading list. Parents and students may access the list from the Shrewsbury Public Schools web site, <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/>. Click on the "Curriculum" heading. The link to Summer Reading is located in the left margin. All reading lists may be downloaded from this location. Additionally, a paper copy of the list will be available in the main office of each middle school, at the school department office in town hall, and at the Shrewsbury Public Library.

The school year will begin with activities and discussions related to summer reading books. All students at the middle level are expected to select and read **three** books from the school specific lists. We strongly recommend that students use sticky notes to annotate the book. They should mark places that are important to the plot of the story or the main idea of a non-fiction text. On the website, there is a "How to Annotate Guide" for specific information about this process.

Summer reading books should be selected according to interest and independent reading ability. If your child is struggling with a book, please have them try another text that more comfortably fits their independent reading level. If your child is having difficulty finding an appropriate selection, please contact Lisa Daly (ldaly@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us) and further accommodations may be discussed.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer!

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I get a copy of the summer reading lists for Sherwood or Oak Middle School?

The summer reading lists for all schools in Shrewsbury can be viewed and downloaded from the *Shrewsbury Public Schools web page:*

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov>

Click on the "Curriculum" heading. The link to Summer Reading is located in the left margin.

Additionally, both middle schools have posted the lists and accompanying documents on their web pages, which can also be accessed through the Shrewsbury Public Schools web page.

2. How many books is my child supposed to read?

On each school's web site, you will find a letter explaining the summer reading program. Each student in grades 5 – 8 is expected to read three books from their school specific list.

3. Does my child need to do a project or fill out any forms?

No, there are no projects or forms that need to be filled out. The purpose of summer reading is to foster a love of reading. We are asking students to annotate the books for important events or personal connections (...annotation means taking short notes as one reads in order to mark important passages, ask questions, make predictions, etc). There is a *Guide to Annotating* that can be viewed or downloaded from the district or school web pages.

4. Does my child need to purchase the books or can we borrow them from the library?

You may borrow them from the library. In this case, please have your child attach the annotations to a sheet of paper, in order. It is essential that your child record the page number on each annotation so they can use them in the classroom at the beginning of the year.

5. What should we do if my child is struggling reader and the books on the lists are too difficult for them to read independently?

There are several strategies you can use:

- All the books are leveled. Please make sure your child is reading at the appropriate level (level one is easy, level two is average, level three is challenging).
- Read the book out loud to your child.
- Try to find an audio copy of the book—the public library has many of these.
- Have your child attend the summer reading program at the Shrewsbury Public Library—this is free.
- Have a conversation with your child's current teacher for suggestions.
- Send an email to Lisa Daly, the English Language Arts Curriculum Coordinator –ldaly@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us